



**TESTIMONY OF ERIN KEMPLE IN SUPPORT OF
H.B. 5342, AN ACT TO EXPAND THE VOTING MEMBERSHIP
OF THE LOW INCOME ENERGY ADVISORY BOARD**

Members of the Housing Committee, thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify in support of H.B. 5342. I am the executive director of the Connecticut Fair Housing Center, a statewide organization whose mission is to ensure that all Connecticut residents have access to the housing of their choice free from discrimination.

H.B. 5342 will expand the voting membership of the Low Income Energy Advisory Board (LIEAB) to include the executive director of the Connecticut Fair Housing Center. We support this expansion of the Board because it will ensure both adequate representation of the communities served and that all who need assistance have access to the programs overseen by LIEAB. During the pandemic, there has been an increased number of people seeking energy assistance and an increase in the diversity of the communities affected by the inability to keep up with utility payments. With our state and nation facing significant inflation and uncertainty in the energy markets, increasing the Board to include groups that have relationships with all of the communities affected by increasing energy costs is more important than ever. The Connecticut Fair Housing Center has been working with people who are low-income, people of color, and people with disabilities since its inception in 1994. We welcome the chance to contribute our expertise to this important group.